

March, 2002

KQ

Keys to Quality Connections

A Newsletter of the RI Keys to Quality Accreditation Project

A collaboration of the RI Department of Education & CHILDSPAN: RI's Child Development & Education Training System & the RI Department of Human Services



From the Editor

We will soon be adding new KQ sites. At our Annual Information Session held each year in January, participants received an overview of the accreditation process. They also had the opportunity to learn firsthand about the benefits of self study from a local panel featuring staff from recently accredited sites. Application guidelines were reviewed so that new school districts and their community partners may easily complete each step. Selection is competitive and applications are due at the Department of Education by March 8, 2002. Priorities for selection include:

- 1st - communities that have not yet participated in the project
- 2nd - previous Round sites that dropped out of project temporarily.
- 3rd - communities that already have project sites that want to increase the number of school district and community partner programs.

If I can supply you with any additional information on our project or if you would like to receive an application please contact me: Joyce Ruppell, Keys to Quality Project, 49 Pojac Point N. Kingstown, RI 02852, Phone: 884-8246; Fax -294-9879

E-mail: ruppellbsyc@ids.net.



Validation Visit

The Validation Visit is the culminating event in the self study process. You and your staff have done the hard work and made a strong commitment for quality in the education of young children

Our TA staff has been working with you to help you get ready for this important day. Here are some reminders to help you make this process as effective as possible for you.

Getting Ready: KQ TA staff can help you prepare for the NAEYC validator's visit, including helping you complete the validation application (program description) and get materials and staff ready for the visit. Specifically, they can help by

1. reviewing your program description prior to submission to offer ideas on how this can be completed most effectively,
2. observing in your program re: readiness for validation in light of the ECCO,
3. meeting with administrative and program staff to (a) let them know what to expect on the day of the visit and how best to prepare and (b) offer advice to staff on how to organize the documents that the validator will need to see, and

Submitting Your Program Description:

When you are ready to submit your program description, make a copy for your records and then send the original to us at:

Keys to Quality Project Manager
CHILDSPAN

500 Prospect Street
Pawtucket, RI 02860

Phone: 729-0765; Fax: 727-2810

Please call Nancy West at CHILDSPAN to let her know it is "on its way". We will then send to NAEYC both your program description and accreditation fee to start the next stage of accreditation (validation visit). When you learn of your visit date, please call let Joyce Ruppell know.

About 3 months after your visit, NAEYC you will send you the Commission Findings (accreditation decision). Please send a copy to us:

Joyce Ruppell
Pojac Point
North Kingstown, RI 02852

Phone: 884-8246; Fax -294-9879

Good Luck!

Accreditation Key

Keys to Quality demonstrates excellence in defining its objectives and designing strategies to assist programs to attain accreditation.

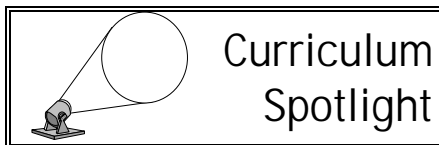
Third party Evaluation 2000-2001 Report

Help Wanted? Then give us a call!

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Patty Pontarelli • 789-6495; Evie Martin 322-1414

RIDE Contact: Amy Cohen • 222-4600 x 2408 **CHILDSPAN Contacts:** Shevaun Keogh- Walker, Nancy West • 729-0765



Curriculum Spotlight

What is curriculum? How do we guarantee curriculum that is meaningful for children? How do we keep up with increasing demands for accountability and intellectual integrity in our classrooms? These are not easy questions. We all struggle for answers while continuing to teach, guide, and support young children in our programs.

There are several sources of help for educators and administrators trying to develop an appropriate curriculum for young children. NAEYC's Developmentally Appropriate Practice lists curriculum guidelines. There are also now National Standards for Education as well as RI standards adapted from these standards.

Our job as early childhood educators is to build the foundation that will enable children to meet these standards throughout their education by helping ALL children develop the needed skills and dispositions. To do this, curriculum review is critical.

Keeping our children interested and engaged is good, but it is not enough. If we are choosing activities at random, there is no guarantee we are giving children tools they will need in elementary school. We must use a carefully planned, written curriculum with outcomes and expectations for our children. This should include activities not only based on children's interests but also those that support the curriculum. Moreover, the curriculum must address ALL areas of development. Assessments and observations MUST be connected to that curriculum. It's a big job. It is a process that takes time, thought and team work. Here are some suggestions on how to begin.

- Locate anything you have in writing describing your curriculum

including philosophy, mission, goals, and program's guidelines for planning.

- Now, brainstorm what you do and under which of the main areas it fits.
- Then, rearrange and rewrite each area into observable child expectations.
- Review NAEYC guidelines, state and National Standards. Decide if you have any "holes" in your curriculum and how to fix them.
- Now, that you have the beginning of a purposeful curriculum, make a plan for how to carry out this curriculum and how to assess learning to make sure your plan is working.



KQ Training

To learn more about "Curriculum Challenge" attend the training on May 3, 2002 at the New England Early Childhood Conference! The conference will be held at the Rhode Island Convention Center Providence, RI.

****Be sure to check out our new SPRING Training Calendar to view a listing of Keys to Quality training events. You may register with CHILDSPAN by using the enclosed Registration Form.***

KQ sites & those interested in becoming a KQ site should also watch for mailings every four to six weeks to register for trainings.



Accredited KQ Sites

Want to see quality programs that have become NAEYC accredited? Give these programs a call!

- Frenchtown Elementary, East Greenwich
- East Greenwich Cooperative's Children's Center, East Greenwich Schools' partner
- Happy Hearts Learning Center, East Greenwich Schools' partner
- Hathaway Elementary, Portsmouth
- Elmhurst Elementary, Portsmouth
- Melville Elementary, Portsmouth
- Countryside Child Care Center, Portsmouth Schools' partner
- Sullivan School, Newport
- New Visions Project Head Start, Newport (co-located with Sullivan School)
- South County Head Start, Narragansett Schools' partner
- Kent County YMCA - Y's Owl Nursery & Preschool, Warwick Schools' partner
- Child, Inc., Warwick Schools' partner
- West Bay Children's Center, Warwick Schools' partner
- Charlestown Elementary, Chariho
- Hope Valley Elementary, Chariho
- Charlestown Early Learning Center, Chariho Schools' partner
- Austin Levy Elementary, Burrillville
- Tri-Town Community Action Head Start, Burrillville Schools' partner
- Hazard School, South Kingstown
- Jamestown Elementary Preschool
- Jamestown Early Learning Center, Jamestown Schools' partner
- Early Years Learning Center, Providence Schools' partner
- Extended Day Kindergarten Program Tower Street Elementary, Springbrook Elementary, Westerly
- Dunn's Corner Elementary, Westerly
- YMCA Nursery School, Westerly
- McGuire Elementary, North Providence

